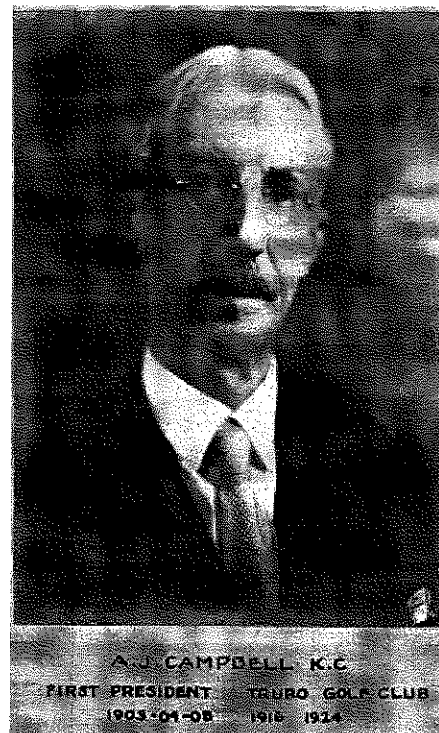


HISTORY OF THE TRURO GOLF CLUB



The first fact to be recorded was that on a fine morning early in the year of 1903, a certain lean and lanky Truro gentleman boarded the North bound train enroute to Montreal. He was on a business trip, all innocent of the history to be occasioned by the momentous trip. Only one item of interest of that trip shall be recorded here; the rest has long since faded into oblivion. That item was destined to play an enormous part in the life of many citizens of Truro and their number still increases. While in the city of Montreal, this gentleman was initiated into the mysteries of the game of golf in those days a rarity. So taken was our Truro friend with the game that on his return home he bore with him a strange weapon called a MIDIRON and two GOLF BALLS. Next we see him out in Doggett's field (down Willow St.) taking mighty swings at those two balls. He's completely sold on the game of golf.

Soon he is joined by a gentleman named A. R. Watt who at that time was master baker at W. H. Snook's & Co. Mr. Watt was "one up" on our enthusiastic mid-iron player as he was already possessed of an entire bagful of golf clubs having played in the old country. Their interest increased and somehow more balls

must have appeared two balls never lasted that long. Now we find these two gentlemen looking for a more favorable landscape for their pastime and we find them looking over the Longworth field as a hopeful site. From then on, their doom was sealed; there was no hope! They had become addicts, fated to Saturday foursomes, 19th holes; divot taking and alike making. O what a world of pleasure and pain they opened up for a lot of us!

So our gentleman had little talks with this one and that one and before long we have gathered in A. J. Campbell's office on October 29, 1903, a group of men starting our history. Their names deserve honorable mention: A. J. Campbell (K.C.), Hugh MacKenzie (K.C.), J. B. Moorman (Esq.), H. Putnam (K.C.), Jas. Rose (Esq.) and S. D. McLellan (K.C.) father of Judge R.F. McLellan Past President (1952) & grandfather of Mary McLellan Baird.

A constitution was arrived at; officers were elected and our possessor of the MIDIRON and the two GOLF BALLS became our first president, Mr. A. J. Campbell, (K.C.). He was also our first captain at one and the same time; Mr Mackenzie was Vice-President and Mr. Moorman was Secretary-Treasurer.

At this meeting, the following were submitted for membership and were accepted without further formality on payment of the regular dues. They were : M. J. Layton, H. MacKenzie, W. P. MacKay, J. B. Moorman, F. B. Schurman, W. B. Cummings, H. V. Bigelow, A. J. Campbell, Harold Putnam, E. Phillips, S. D. McLellan, W. L. Muir, A. R. Watt, H. W. Crowe, Wm. Crowe, H. O. MacLatchy, E. R. Wainwright, A. C. Patterson, J. B. Hall, and W. H. Rennie. Of these charter members, the following have never severed their club connections and have held at various times the highest offices which the club can bestow. I refer to A. J. Campbell, S. D. McLellan, H. W. Crowe and H. O. MacLatchy.

By the spring of 1904, the Longworth property had been leased. This land now belongs to Mr. T. S. Pattillo and has not changed greatly in appearance since it was used as a golf links. Now the holes were laid out. The greens (very nominal ones) were prepared. Walks were built over the swamp and, if the swamp was as wide then as it is now, it must have been quite a tussle to get a ball across that wilderness of water and rushes.

Now golf is really being played. 165 strokes was a good qualifying round for the men (there is no record of what they were good for but we'll admit they were good!!). We will have to give them credit for counting all their strokes. There is nothing to tell us how many strokes the ladies took. It would be plenty for they were sufficiently handicapped as their skirts, long and flaring, swept the ground. High collars kept the chins up and enormous hats guarded pearly complexions from the sun. The skirts were very bothersome. Putting was a fine art and, on a very windy day, these skirts were more of a menace than some of the ladies dared to face. But one fine day, their trouble was happily solved. The Windsor Club came over to play a friendly match and the Windsor ladies promptly whipped out lengths of elastic which they carefully tied around the aforesaid skirts, thereby anchoring them so that golf could go on. After the shot was played, the elastics were pulled up to allow freedom for walking until again the ball was reached. That was a welcome fashion for our Truro ladies. They rushed to purchase elastic and continued its use for some years after. Afternoon teas were served from the very first. At the start, we are told the men didn't take much notice of the teas but that state of things didn't last long because after a little, the men served tea for the ladies. You sat on the grass to drink tea in those times and the tea was made at either the Longworth house or at Mrs. Dr. Randall's. A bit later, the Athletic Club House was used for this purpose. The men of the club had lockers in the Athletic Club House but most of the ladies carried their clubs back and forth.

By 1906, the club had begun to outgrow the Longworth property and it was decided to acquire more suitable grounds. Officially speaking, we now have the Truro Golf Club coming into being. On March 14th, 1906, the club gave authority to its committee to purchase certain items of land and, in connection with this action, to apply for articles of incorporation. This incorporation was completed on the 19th of April, 1906.

The present links were purchased on option by Dr. F. S. Yorston and Mr. A. J. Campbell. The present club house was built. Dr. Yorston and Mr. Campbell laid out the course and, when one considers how comparatively inversed these men were at such a task, it is extremely remarkable how long the course remained as originally planned. Of course, each succeeding greens committee did a little of this and a little of that to the different holes but in the main they stayed in their original order for a good many years. Too much credit cannot be given to the late Dr. Yorston for his unflagging zeal. He was President in 1906 and it is in great part due to his untiring enthusiasm that we have our present links. He worked early and late and every part of the club and the course was his own personal problem. We have been very fortunate to have had such men in our history for they have truly made much out of little.

It must have been a heart-breaking job to try to build fairways out of the wilderness that this place was in those days. Only the far end had been under cultivation. The rest was a mass of cradle hills, clad with brush, blueberry patches and the odd small bush and tree. But the work went on the land was ploughed, harrowed and reharrowed and then seeded. The first crop came